

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A sample dispenser, for the application of liquid samples with a sample volume of less than 1 microliter on to a sample absorbing area, with a sample dispenser body having at its end a recess bounded by a continuous edge, such that, when the recess is dipped into a sample reservoir, a droplet of liquid sample of predetermined size adheres to the recess and by placing the recess on the sample absorbing area is completely dispensed, wherein the recess has a depth of less than 50% of its width, and wherein the recess has a shape selected from the group consisting of a hollow cone and a segmented hollow sphere.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the hollow cone shaped recess is made by drilling.

Claim 17 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the recess is polished.

Claim 18 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 16, wherein the recess is polished.

Claim 19 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the recess is a free end face of the sample dispenser body in the form of an elongated body.

Claim 20 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 18, wherein the recess is a free end face of the sample dispenser body in the form of an elongated body.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A sample dispenser, for the application of liquid samples with a sample volume of less than 1 microliter on to a sample absorbing area, with a sample dispenser body having at its end a recess bounded by a continuous edge, such that, when the recess is dipped into a sample reservoir, a droplet of liquid sample of predetermined size adheres to the recess and by placing the recess on the sample absorbing area is completely dispensed, wherein the recess has a depth of less than 50% of its width, wherein the recess has a shape selected from the group consisting of a hollow cone and a segmented hollow sphere, and Sample dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section with a diameter of from about 1 mm to about 2 mm.

Claim 22 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 14, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section having a diameter of from about 1.2 mm to about 1.7 mm.

Claim 23 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 20, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section with a diameter of from about 1 mm to about 2 mm.

Claim 24 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 20, wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section having a diameter of from about 1.2 mm to about 1.7 mm.

Claim 25 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 21, wherein the cylinder section is provided with two parallel flattened walls, spaced from about 0.8 mm to about 1.2 mm apart.

Claim 26 (previously presented): Sample dispenser according to claim 23, wherein the cylinder section is provided with two parallel flattened walls, spaced from about 0.8 mm to about 1.2 mm apart.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented): A sample dispenser, for the application of liquid samples with a sample volume of less than 1 microliter on to a sample absorbing area, with a sample dispenser body having at its end a recess bounded by a continuous edge, such that, when the recess is dipped into a sample reservoir, a droplet of liquid sample of predetermined size adheres to the recess and by placing the recess on the sample absorbing area is completely dispensed, wherein the recess has a depth of less than 50% of its width, and wherein the recess has the shape of a hollow cone.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The sample dispenser of claim 28, wherein the hollow cone shaped recess is made by drilling.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A sample dispenser, for the application of liquid samples with a sample volume of less than 1 microliter on to a sample absorbing area, with a sample dispenser body having at its end a recess bounded by a continuous edge, such that, when the recess is dipped into a sample reservoir, a droplet of liquid sample of predetermined size adheres to the recess and by placing the recess on the sample absorbing area is completely dispensed, wherein the recess has a depth of less than 50% of its width, wherein the recess has the shape of a hollow cone, and ~~The sample dispenser of claim 29,~~ wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section with a diameter of from about 1 mm to about 2 mm.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The sample dispenser of claim 30, wherein the cylinder section comprises two flat parallel walls.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A sample dispenser, for the application of liquid samples with a sample volume of less than 1 microliter on to a sample absorbing area, with a sample dispenser body having at its end a recess bounded by a continuous edge, such that, when the recess is dipped into a sample reservoir, a droplet of liquid sample of predetermined size adheres to the recess and by placing the recess on the sample absorbing area is completely dispensed, wherein the recess has a depth of less than 50% of its width, and wherein the recess has the shape of a segmented hollow sphere.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The sample dispenser of claim 32, wherein the recess is polished.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A sample dispenser, for the application of liquid samples with a sample volume of less than 1 microliter on to a sample absorbing area, with a sample dispenser body having at its end a recess bounded by a continuous edge, such that, when the recess is dipped into a sample reservoir, a droplet of liquid sample of predetermined size adheres to the recess and by placing the recess on the sample absorbing area is completely dispensed, wherein the recess has a depth of less than 50% of its width, wherein the recess has the shape of a segmented hollow sphere, and~~The sample dispenser of claim 32,~~ wherein the sample dispenser body has as its tip a cylinder section with a diameter of from about 1 mm to about 2 mm.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The sample dispenser of claim 34, wherein the cylinder section comprises two flat parallel walls.